

## The Antique Desk



IMPOSSIBLE; I don't believe it, Marcia."

"It's true," persisted Dorothy.

"Harold arrested! How terrible!"

"It wasn't his fault. Didn't you hear about the antique desk Mrs. Newell sent them for a wedding present?"

"Not a word," answered Marcia.

"It was a beauty; all hand-carved mahogany. Their apartment was furnished in accordance with that desk and not Harold's income. Jessica noticed one of the panels was loose. 'Don't worry your pretty head about it,' Harold told her; 'We'll send it to Macken's furniture store and have it repaired.'"

"Did Mrs. Newell know it was damaged when she bought it?" interrupted Marcia.

"No, not that; but worse."

"They were giving their first dinner party. Jessica, who is always a human icicle, keeping cool, calm and collected under all circumstances, for once was flurried. She was sure the roast would not be done enough, or that it would be too well done; that the bouillon would be served too cold and that the iced tomatoes would not be chilled sufficiently, but everything went along fine until the last course, when two officers appeared upon the scene, with warrants to arrest Jessica's husband."

"How awful! How embarrassing! I've been married ten years and my husband has never been arrested."

"You're luckier than Jessica. A few of the guests went along to give ball for him. Jessica was in hysterics, asking all at once: 'What would the neighbors think if they saw him leave with the officers? How could they keep a maid if the girl knew about his arrest? Would it be in all

the papers illustrated with his picture? When Harold returned two hours later he assured her that he had treated all the officers and reporters, so there would be no danger of publicity."

"Why was he arrested?"

"You see, that desk was an heirloom much valued by a family named Houghton. When the Houghtons were abroad last summer their house was ransacked and among other articles taken was this desk. Detectives had searched far and near for it, but could find no trace. When it appeared at Macken's, one of the clerks, who is a friend of Mrs. Houghton's daughter Amy, recognized the desk and traced it to the Carletons, and issued the warrant of his own accord for the arrest."

"But how did Mrs. Newell come across it?"

"After she read the morning paper she immediately rushed over to Jessica's to confess the truth. Upon receiving her invitation she vowed and declared that her present would outshine all the others. After searching the city for something unique and handsome, one day she accompanied a poor woman to a pawn shop to redeem some article for her. Her surprise was great at seeing such a valuable piece of furniture in that place. The proprietor hesitated and did not seem anxious to sell, but finally let her have it for \$75. She sent a private expressman for it, had it cleaned and polished, thinking none would be the wiser as to where she purchased it."

"Jessica immediately returned it to the rightful owner with a note of explanation."

"Did Mrs. Newell send them anything else?"

"I don't know; she sailed suddenly for Europe a few days later, but I don't think she will invest in any more antiques."

"Did you think the clerk received any reward?"

"Yes; his engagement has been announced to Miss Houghton."

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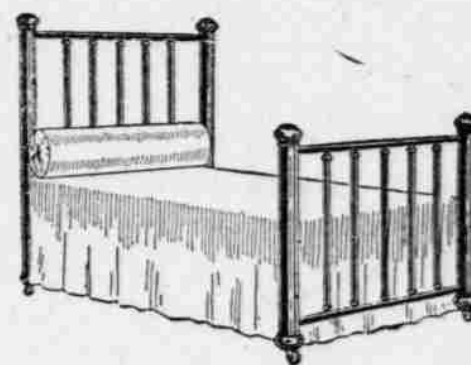


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### Joan of Arc's Sword.

A sword in the Dijon museum has just been identified as that used by Joan of Arc and presented to her by Charles VII of France. On one side of the hilt, says the London Mail, is engraved a figure kneeling before a cross, and the inscription: "Charles VII," while the other side bears the name "Voucouleurs." The sword also bears the arms of France and of the town of Orleans, and the date 1419.

### Japanese Vegetable Oils.

The vegetable oils made and well known in Japan are sesame, Torreyia nuffera, beech, peanut, mustard, rapeseed, perilla, Elaeococlea cordata, Op-halotaxus drupeacea, camellia, tea seed, hempseed, spurge, sumac and oil of wild Paulownia imperialis. Inquiries were made of numerous dealers in these oils concerning a chrysanthemum oil, but none seemed to know of it.

### Danger.

Elopement is becoming highly popular in certain circles in America, young couples rushing off to distant states to get married without the knowledge of their parents. "In many instances, we gather," says a writer in the London Evening News, "the greatest secrecy has to be observed for fear that the parents might hear of the projected match and give their consent."

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